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Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 31 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the pleasure to transmit the statement of His Excellency Nizar Bin Sadeq Al-Baharna, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, made on the occasion of United Nations Day (see annex).

I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex were issued as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 54 (d), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Tawfeeq Ahmed **Almansoor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 31 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

It gives me pleasure to respond to your generous invitation to join the esteemed gathering in the annual celebration of United Nations Day on 24 October, and to reaffirm the confidence of the peoples of the world in the United Nations and in its Charter, which has served for over 60 years as the guiding framework and compass for international relations.

As we celebrate this year in the presence of Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the new Secretary-General of the United Nations, I am pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate him once again on having been selected for this important post that he so richly deserves. We commend his active and vital role in enhancing the effectiveness of the Organization and his initiatives in the service of the global community, most recently his call for the High-level Event on Climate Change so successfully held at the United Nations last month.

There can be no doubt that the achievements of the United Nations are far-reaching in many areas, including international peace and security, the protection of human rights, the promotion of economic and social development, the protection of women's and children's rights, and the eradication of colonization and racial discrimination. All of these achievements validate today's endeavour by we peoples who have put our trust in and rallied around the United Nations to seek further support for its efforts and programmes with a view to the achievement of its lofty goals and purposes in the area of peace and development.

As it convenes its sixty-second session, the United Nations is today confronted with one of the greatest threats to economic, social and, from a broader perspective, human stability, namely, the threat, or rather, threats, posed by climate change to the global environment, including all of the water, air and soil on planet Earth.

The concern of which I am speaking today was stressed by Sheikha Haya Al-Khalifa in her farewell address as President of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on 17 September 2007, when she said that the issue of climate change was no longer a matter of debate but had become a living reality that impinged on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The international community has in fact already laid the legal and institutional groundwork for addressing these threats through the United Nations at the level of this year's General Assembly in the High-level Event on Climate Change held on 24 December, at the level of the Security Council in the debate on climate change held in April of this year, and at the global level in the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Bali, Indonesia, this December. Climate change is therefore becoming the issue of both the present and the future.

This issue remains a constant reminder of the intimate link between the effects of climate change and the process of sustainable development, particularly during the discussions of the current General Assembly session, which have given rise to renewed calls for developed countries to fulfil their pledges of assistance to developing and less developed countries to address the effects of climate change and

the burdens of development so that the desired equitable balance between the two sides is achieved.

The Kingdom of Bahrain is tackling the effects of climate change both directly and indirectly. It has developed a comprehensive sustainable development strategy that takes all factors into account and combines compliance with international conventions, particularly those relating to climate change, with the provision of comprehensive economic, social, health and humanitarian care to all of its citizens for the sake of prosperity and stability.

In order to respond to these challenges, fulfil its commitment to cooperate with the United Nations and the international community, and do whatever necessary to forestall the negative effects of climate change, the Kingdom of Bahrain, by a decision of His Highness the Prime Minister in September of this year, has approved the establishment of a joint national committee to address the effects of climate change. It has also identified ways and means by which to introduce environment-friendly technology, draft regulations and measures for the implementation of agreements in conformity with national laws, and prepare the Kingdom's national reports on the subject of climate change.

While the Kingdom of Bahrain has established its own national mechanisms to protect against the harmful effects of climate change on the environment, the economy and humanity, it believes wholeheartedly that all such burdens are the shared responsibility of developed and developing countries, rich and poor, industrialized and non-industrialized, for the good of humankind and a stable future.

Today, as we celebrate United Nations Day, we rededicate our efforts, both with our partners for development and peace in the Gulf and Arab region, and with the United Nations, for the sake of greater success in achieving not only the Millennium Development Goals but all of the lofty purposes of the United Nations.